



# CLEP<sup>®</sup>

## Official Study Guide

### 16th Edition

## History of the United States II

College-Level Examination Program<sup>®</sup>

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# History of the United States II

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## Description of the Examination

The History of the United States II: 1865 to the Present examination covers material that is usually taught in the second semester of what is often a two-semester course in United States history. The examination covers the period of United States history from the end of the Civil War to the present, with the majority of the questions on the twentieth century.

The examination contains 120 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. Some of these are pretest questions that will not be scored. Any time candidates spend on tutorials and providing personal information is in addition to the actual testing time.

## Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the History of the United States II examination require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities:

- Identification and description of historical phenomena
- Analysis and interpretation of historical phenomena
- Comparison and contrast of historical phenomena

The subject matter of the History of the United States II examination is drawn from the following topics. The percentages next to the main topics indicate the approximate percentages of exam questions on those topics.

## Topical Specifications

- 35% Political institutions, behavior, and public policy
- 25% Social developments
- 10% Economic developments
- 15% Cultural and intellectual developments
- 15% Diplomacy and international relations

## Chronological Specifications

30% 1865–1914

70% 1915–present

The following are among the specific topics tested:

- The motivations and character of American expansionism
- The content of constitutional amendments and their interpretations by the Supreme Court
- The changing nature of agricultural life
- The development of American political parties
- The emergence of regulatory and welfare-state legislation
- The intellectual and political expressions of liberalism, conservatism, and other such movements
- Long-term demographic trends
- The process of economic growth and development
- The changing occupational structure, nature of work, and labor organization
- Immigration and the history of racial and ethnic minorities
- Urbanization and industrialization
- The causes and impacts of major wars in American history
- Major movements and individual figures in the history of American arts and letters
- Trends in the history of women and the family

### Sample Test Questions

The following questions are provided to give an indication of the types of questions that appear on the History of the United States II examination. CLEP examinations are designed so that average students completing a course in the subject can usually answer about half the questions correctly.

**Directions:** Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

1. Which of the following best describes the experiences of most emancipated slaves following Reconstruction?
  - (A) They obtained land from the Freedmen's Bureau.
  - (B) They were forced back onto the plantations as sharecroppers.
  - (C) They established large cooperative farms.
  - (D) They migrated to northern urban areas and worked as unskilled laborers.
  - (E) They were forced to migrate to marginally fertile lands in the western territories.
  
2. The Reconstruction Acts of 1867 provided for
  - (A) temporary Union military supervision of the former Confederacy
  - (B) federal monetary support for the resettlement of Black Americans in Africa
  - (C) denial of property-holding and voting rights to Black Americans
  - (D) implementation of anti-Black vagrancy laws in the South
  - (E) lenient readmission of the formerly Confederate states to the Union
  
3. The second Sioux war (1875–1876), in which Custer was defeated at the Battle of Little Bighorn, was caused by all of the following EXCEPT
  - (A) the extension of the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad
  - (B) a concentrated effort on the part of the major Protestant denominations to convert the Sioux to Christianity
  - (C) the gold rush in the Black Hills
  - (D) corruption within the Department of the Interior
  - (E) overland migration of settlers to the Pacific Northwest
  
4. "This, then, is held to be the duty of the man of wealth: to consider all surplus revenues which come to him simply as trust funds, which he is called upon to administer and strictly bound as a matter of duty to administer in the manner which, in his judgment, is best calculated to produce the most beneficial results for the community—the man of wealth thus becoming the mere agent and trustee for his poorer brethren."
 

The sentiments expressed above are most characteristic of

  - (A) transcendentalism
  - (B) pragmatism
  - (C) the Gospel of Wealth
  - (D) the Social Gospel
  - (E) Social Darwinism

5. Reformers of the Progressive era proposed all of the following changes in city government and politics at the turn of the century EXCEPT

- (A) a large city council elected by wards
- (B) civil service
- (C) home rule for cities
- (D) city manager and commission governments
- (E) nonpartisan elections

6. The anticompetition laws passed by numerous states in the late 1880's were a response to which of the following organizational innovations?

- (A) The creation and growth of international cartels
- (B) The development of industry-wide trade associations
- (C) The joining of skilled and unskilled workers in industrial unions
- (D) The formation of agricultural marketing cooperatives
- (E) The use of stockholding trusts to create business monopolies

7. Which of the following constituted a significant change in the treatment of American Indians during the last half of the nineteenth century?

- (A) The beginning of negotiations with individual tribal groups
- (B) The start of a removal policy
- (C) The abandonment of the reservation system
- (D) The admission of American Indians to United States citizenship
- (E) The division of tribal lands among individual members



Museum of the City of New York.

8. The late-nineteenth-century photograph shown above was intended to serve which of the following purposes?

- (A) To advocate social reform
- (B) To arouse anti-immigrant sentiments
- (C) To encourage the purchase of cameras
- (D) To document the need for prohibition
- (E) To encourage immigration to the cities

9. Which of the following would have been most likely to vote for William Jennings Bryan in 1896?
- (A) A Kansas farmer
  - (B) A Chicago industrial worker
  - (C) A department store clerk
  - (D) A university professor of economics
  - (E) A New York Republican Party member
10. Unionization efforts in the late nineteenth century were countered by the
- (A) establishment of the eight-hour workday
  - (B) passage of right-to-work laws
  - (C) increasing use of skilled labor
  - (D) use of federal troops to help defeat strikes
  - (E) establishment of factories in foreign countries by United States corporations
11. Which of the following best states the goals of the “pure and simple unionism” advocated by Samuel Gompers?
- (A) Labor unions should concentrate on increasing wages and benefits.
  - (B) Labor should organize industry’s skilled and unskilled workers into a single union.
  - (C) Labor unions should compete directly against large industries in the production and distribution of consumer products.
  - (D) Industrial workers should form a political party to achieve their goals.
  - (E) The defective capitalistic system should be replaced by labor cooperatives.
12. Which of the following best describes the urban political machines of the late nineteenth century?
- (A) Organizations created by native-born Americans to combat the political influence of immigrants
  - (B) Organizations controlled by politicians who dispensed jobs and other patronage in return for political support
  - (C) Organizations working for civil service reform to ensure sound municipal government
  - (D) Organizations of reformers working to combat urban poverty by establishing settlement houses
  - (E) Organizations of conservative elites seeking to maintain control of politics
13. In his interpretation of the historical development of the United States, Frederick Jackson Turner focused on the importance of the
- (A) traditions of Western European culture
  - (B) role of women in socializing children to become good citizens
  - (C) historical consequences of the enslavement of Black people
  - (D) conflict between capitalists and workers
  - (E) frontier experience in fostering democracy
14. The American Federation of Labor in the 1890’s organized
- (A) skilled workers into craft unions in order to achieve economic gains
  - (B) all industrial and agricultural workers into a single union
  - (C) unskilled workers along industrial lines
  - (D) women into the Women’s Trade Union League
  - (E) workers into a fraternal organization to provide unemployment benefits



Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford.  
The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund.

15. The 1907 painting shown above is representative of the

- (A) Impressionist painting of Mary Cassatt
- (B) Hudson River school art of Asher B. Durand
- (C) Surrealism of Giorgio De Chirico
- (D) Abstract Expressionist work of Jackson Pollock
- (E) Ashcan School art of John Sloan

16. In the period 1890–1915, all of the following were generally true about Black Americans EXCEPT:

- (A) Voting rights previously gained were denied through changes in state laws and constitutions.
- (B) Back-to-Africa movements were widely popular among Black residents of cities.
- (C) Black leaders disagreed on the principal strategy for attaining equal rights.
- (D) Numerous physical attacks on Black individuals occurred in both the North and the South.
- (E) Black people from the rural South migrated to both southern and northern cities.

17. Between 1890 and 1914, most immigrants to the United States came from

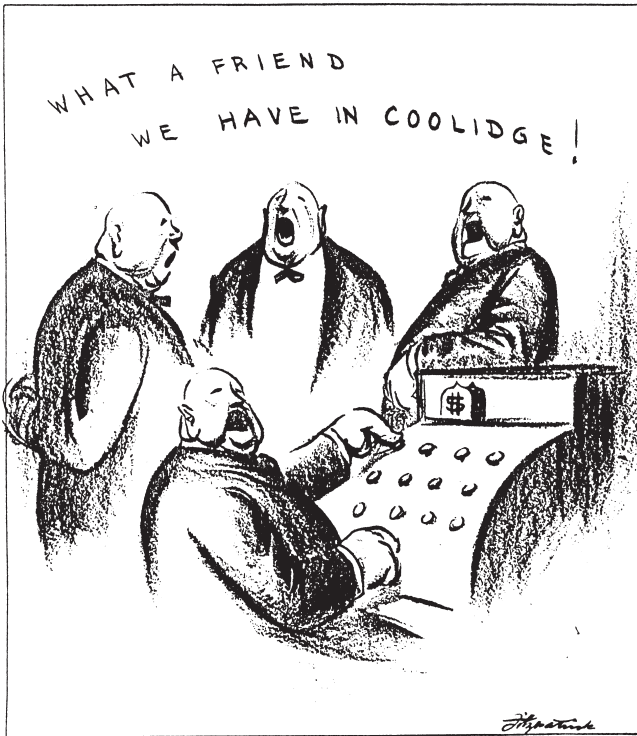
- (A) southern and eastern Europe
- (B) northern and western Europe
- (C) Latin America
- (D) Southeast Asia
- (E) Canada

18. Which of the following is a correct statement about the United States at the close of the First World War?

- (A) It joined the League of Nations.
- (B) It emerged as the world's leading creditor nation.
- (C) It accorded diplomatic recognition to the Soviet Union.
- (D) It repealed the amendment to the Constitution that allowed Prohibition.
- (E) It received large reparations payments from Germany.

19. The “lost generation” after the First World War was
- (A) represented by Ernest Hemingway in the figures of Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley
  - (B) depicted in Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar*
  - (C) glorified by T. S. Eliot in “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
  - (D) portrayed as the principal subject of Sinclair Lewis’ *Babbitt*
  - (E) portrayed as the principal subject of Theodore Dreiser’s *An American Tragedy*
20. Many Mexicans migrated to the United States during the First World War because
- (A) revolution in Mexico had caused social upheaval and dislocation
  - (B) the United States offered special homestead rights to relatives of Mexican Americans serving in the armed forces
  - (C) the war in Europe had disrupted the Mexican economy
  - (D) American Progressives generally held liberal views on the issue of racial assimilation
  - (E) the United States government recruited Mexican workers to accelerate the settlement of the Southwest
21. All of the following were among Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points EXCEPT
- (A) a general association of nations
  - (B) freedom to navigate the high seas in peace and war
  - (C) an independent Poland
  - (D) a partitioned Germany
  - (E) an end to secret treaties
22. A direct consequence of Henry Ford’s assembly-line process was that it
- (A) raised the price of automobiles
  - (B) resulted in small cuts in workers’ wages
  - (C) decreased the need for skilled workers
  - (D) made the working environment safer
  - (E) increased the number of women employed in industrial work
23. All of the following help to explain the presence of large numbers of expatriate American intellectuals in Europe during the 1920’s EXCEPT the
- (A) repressive effects of Prohibition and the resurgence of conservatism in the United States
  - (B) attraction of European cities, especially Paris, as centers of innovation and creativity
  - (C) tradition among American writers of taking up temporary residence in Europe
  - (D) claims of young American writers and critics that American culture was materialistic and hostile to the development of their art
  - (E) European tradition of wealthy patrons supporting struggling American artists and writers

The Cash Register Chorus



Fitzpatrick in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch Collection, Courtesy  
State Historical Society of Missouri

24. The political cartoonist who drew the picture above probably believed that

- (A) European nations were pleased with aid given them by the Coolidge administration
- (B) governmental agencies were receiving too much financial support from the Coolidge administration
- (C) American industrial and commercial leaders approved of the Coolidge administration's business policies
- (D) consumers had benefited from the Federal Reserve Board's tight money policy from 1925 through 1928
- (E) Congress was pleased by President Coolidge's accommodating stance toward pork barrel legislation

25. A number of changes took place in the intellectual life of college-educated Americans between about 1880 and 1930. Which of the following changes is LEAST characteristic of this group during this period?

- (A) Expanded popularity of Freudian psychology
- (B) Rise of pluralistic and relativistic worldviews
- (C) More rigorous training for academic professions
- (D) Growth in influence of religious fundamentalism
- (E) Increased attention to the methods and outlook of the sciences

26. In its 1932 march on Washington, the Bonus Army demanded which of the following?

- (A) Federal unemployment insurance for workers who had lost their jobs
- (B) Federal loans to farmers, with surplus grain used as collateral
- (C) Early payment to veterans of a promised reward for service in the First World War
- (D) A substantial increase in the military budget
- (E) A refund to investors who lost money in the stock market crash of 1929

27. Franklin D. Roosevelt was LEAST successful in securing congressional support for which of the following?

- (A) Negotiation of tariff agreements by the executive department
- (B) Reduction of the gold content of the dollar
- (C) Removal of the restraints of the antitrust acts to permit voluntary trade associations
- (D) Adoption of processing taxes on agricultural products
- (E) Reform of the judiciary to permit the enlargement of the Supreme Court

28. Franklin D. Roosevelt's farm policy was primarily designed to
- (A) reduce farm prices to make food cheaper for the consumer
  - (B) increase production by opening new lands to farmers
  - (C) reduce production in order to boost farm prices
  - (D) use price and wage controls to stabilize farm prices
  - (E) end federal controls over agriculture
29. The main purpose of the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) of 1935 was to
- (A) end the sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan
  - (B) settle the struggle between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Workers
  - (C) guarantee workers a minimum wage
  - (D) ensure workers' right to organize and bargain collectively
  - (E) exempt organized labor from the Sherman Antitrust Act

The Only Way We Can Save Her



Carey Orr. *The Tribune* (Chicago), 1939.

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30. The cartoon above from the 1930's suggests that the cartoonist
- (A) wished to see Europe destroyed
  - (B) believed that Japan was a greater threat to the United States than Germany was
  - (C) did not distinguish among the European belligerents in terms of war aims or forms of government
  - (D) believed that the United States must enter the war to make the world safe for democracy
  - (E) believed that Europe was doomed to communism

31. “The productive methods and facilities of modern industry have been completely transformed. . . . Skilled artisans make up only a small proportion of the workers. Obviously the bargaining strength of employees, under these conditions, no longer rests in organizations of skilled artisans. It is dependent upon a national union representing all employees—whether skilled or unskilled, or whether working by brain or brawn—in each basic industry.”

The statement above best represents the views of

- (A) Emma Goldman
  - (B) John L. Lewis
  - (C) William Green
  - (D) Bernard M. Baruch
  - (E) Jane Addams
32. American participation in the Second World War had which of the following major effects on the home front?
- (A) A temporary movement of women into heavy industry
  - (B) The breakdown of racial segregation in the South
  - (C) The growth of isolationism in the Midwest
  - (D) The introduction of a system of national health insurance
  - (E) A decline in farmers’ income

33. “I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way. I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes.”

The statement above is taken from

- (A) Woodrow Wilson’s request for a declaration of war against Germany (1917)
  - (B) Herbert Hoover’s statement on Japanese aggression in China (1931)
  - (C) Franklin D. Roosevelt’s request for a declaration of war against Japan (1941)
  - (D) Harry S. Truman’s request for funds to support Greece and Turkey against communism (1947)
  - (E) an address by Jeane Kirkpatrick to the United Nations (1983)
34. Which of the following is true of the forced relocation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during the Second World War?
- (A) President Roosevelt claimed that military necessity justified the action.
  - (B) The Supreme Court immediately declared the action unconstitutional.
  - (C) The relocation was implemented according to congressional provisions for the internment of dissidents.
  - (D) The Japanese Americans received the same treatment as that accorded German Americans and Italian Americans.
  - (E) Few of the Japanese Americans relocated were actually United States citizens.

35. During the Second World War, the federal government attempted to control inflation by all of the following means EXCEPT
- (A) rationing consumer goods
  - (B) limiting wartime wages
  - (C) limiting agricultural prices
  - (D) selling war bonds
  - (E) increasing the prime interest rate
36. Which of the following was the LEAST important consideration in the United States decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945?
- (A) Dropping the bombs would be a powerful argument to the Japanese government to cease fighting.
  - (B) Dropping the bombs would presumably shorten the war and therefore save the lives of American soldiers that would be lost in an invasion of the Japanese homeland.
  - (C) Scientists wished to demonstrate to Congress that the \$2 billion spent, after long debate, on the six-year Manhattan Project had not been wasted.
  - (D) Scientists could propose no acceptable technical demonstration of the atomic bomb likely to convince Japan that further fighting was futile.
  - (E) The President and the State Department hoped to end the war in the Far East without Soviet assistance.
37. Following the Second World War, President Truman was unable to expand significantly his predecessor's New Deal programs primarily because of
- (A) the continuation of the Great Depression
  - (B) the need to maintain a large military force in Asia
  - (C) budget expenditures required to rebuild Europe
  - (D) controversy surrounding the Truman Doctrine
  - (E) the domination of Congress by Republicans and conservative Democrats
38. President Truman's decision to recall General MacArthur from his command of United Nations forces in Korea was primarily based on the principle of
- (A) containment of communism
  - (B) limited rather than total warfare
  - (C) isolationism rather than interventionism
  - (D) civilian control of the military
  - (E) self-determination for all free people
39. In the decade after the Civil War, the federal government's policy toward the Plains Indians focused on the
- (A) creation of a network of churches to convert them to Christianity
  - (B) establishment of schools to promote tribal culture
  - (C) establishment of reservations
  - (D) forced migration of most tribes to urban areas
  - (E) forced migration of tribes from the Southeast to Oklahoma
40. The purpose of the Geneva Accords (1954) was to
- (A) divide Vietnam into temporary sectors and lay the groundwork for free elections
  - (B) devise plans for arms reductions between the Soviet Union and the United States
  - (C) establish the boundaries for permanent North and South Korea
  - (D) establish an international peacekeeping force in the Middle East
  - (E) resolve disagreements between the Guatemalan government of Jacobo Arbenz and the United States

41. Allen Ginsberg was well known as
- (A) a founder of the Black Panther Party
  - (B) a key adviser to President Eisenhower
  - (C) a poet of the Beat Generation
  - (D) an anticommunist senator from California
  - (E) an Abstract Expressionist painter
42. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* was a Supreme Court decision that
- (A) was a forerunner of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
  - (B) established free public colleges in the United States
  - (C) declared racially segregated public schools inherently unequal
  - (D) established free public elementary and secondary schools in the United States
  - (E) provided for federal support of parochial schools
43. "The problem with hatred and violence is that they intensify the fears of the White majority, and leave them less ashamed of their prejudices toward Negroes. In the guilt and confusion confronting our society, violence only adds to chaos. It deepens the brutality of the oppressor and increases the bitterness of the oppressed. Violence is the antithesis of creativity and wholeness. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible."
- During the 1960's, all the following Black leaders would probably have supported the view expressed above EXCEPT
- (A) Roy Wilkins
  - (B) Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - (C) James Farmer
  - (D) Stokely Carmichael
  - (E) Whitney M. Young, Jr.
44. Reform activity during the Progressive era was similar to that of the 1960's in all of the following ways EXCEPT:
- (A) The federal government supported civil rights for Black Americans.
  - (B) Reform activity was encouraged by strong and active Presidents.
  - (C) Many reformers advocated changes in the area of women's rights.
  - (D) Governmental reform initiatives were curtailed by war.
  - (E) Reform occurred despite the absence of severe economic depression.
45. What contribution did Ngo Dinh Diem make toward the escalation of hostilities between the United States and North Vietnam?
- (A) He proclaimed himself commander in chief of Viet Cong armies and organized guerrilla attacks on United States military installations.
  - (B) He was appointed by the French government to serve as a temporary president of Vietnam.
  - (C) He refused to carry out political reforms in South Vietnam.
  - (D) He advocated an alliance between himself and Ho Chi Minh to prevent United States intervention in Vietnam.
  - (E) He wrote articles in the Vietnamese popular press encouraging the public to support Marxism.
46. Which of the following is correct about United States involvement in the Vietnam War?
- (A) It was justified by invoking the Open Door policy.
  - (B) It was the exclusive responsibility of the Johnson and Nixon administrations.
  - (C) It came about only after a formal declaration of war.
  - (D) It was primarily anti-Soviet in purpose.
  - (E) It grew out of policy assumptions and commitments dating from the end of the Second World War.

47. Which of the following generated the most anxiety about the possibility of nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union?
- (A) The Berlin Blockade
  - (B) The Cuban missile crisis
  - (C) The Pueblo incident
  - (D) The Suez Crisis
  - (E) The U-2 incident
48. Until 1964, eligibility to vote could be restricted by which of the following means?
- (A) Poll taxes
  - (B) Grandfather clauses
  - (C) Limits on woman suffrage
  - (D) White-only primary elections
  - (E) Exclusion of foreign-born citizens
49. Which of the following is true about the American Indian Movement (AIM), which was founded in 1968?
- (A) It sought accommodation with White society.
  - (B) It modeled its tactics on the Black Power movement.
  - (C) It issued the Declaration of Indian Purpose.
  - (D) It won voting rights for Native Americans.
  - (E) It drew its membership primarily from reservations.
50. In the twentieth century, United States Supreme Court decisions did all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) end Prohibition
  - (B) ban official prayers in the public schools
  - (C) protect a woman's right to an abortion
  - (D) protect property rights
  - (E) expand minority rights
51. The "silent majority" was a term used to describe supporters of
- (A) George McGovern
  - (B) George Wallace
  - (C) Richard Nixon
  - (D) Prohibition
  - (E) environmental reform
52. The military proposal popularly known as "Star Wars" was designed to
- (A) incorporate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration into the armed forces
  - (B) create a satellite and laser shield to defend against missile attacks
  - (C) expand American space exploration efforts
  - (D) construct new ballistic missiles not covered under the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
  - (E) increase the interest of young Americans in volunteering for military service
53. The Prairie School of architecture is best exemplified in the work of
- (A) Stanford White
  - (B) Frank Gehry
  - (C) Frank Lloyd Wright
  - (D) Louis Sullivan
  - (E) Daniel Burnham
54. The Scottsboro case led to which of the following major judicial reforms?
- (A) The end of the all-White southern primary election
  - (B) The establishment of the right of defendants to legal counsel in capital cases
  - (C) The outlawing of forced labor
  - (D) The outlawing of convict labor and chain gangs
  - (E) The mandating of informing criminal suspects of their rights

55. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a landmark legislation because it

- (A) protected voting rights
- (B) prohibited discrimination in public accommodations
- (C) provided funding for Medicare
- (D) led to the birth of the feminist movement
- (E) was a commitment to equity in education

56. In his book *The Fire Next Time* (1963), James Baldwin argued that

- (A) the nuclear arms race imperiled future generations
- (B) the failure of White Americans and Black Americans to overcome racism would have destructive consequences
- (C) expatriate Americans must return home in times of crisis
- (D) protest literature would not solve the problems of inequality
- (E) violence against civil rights demonstrators would escalate without federal intervention

## Study Resources

Most textbooks used in college-level U.S. history (post-1865) courses cover the topics in the outline given earlier, but the approaches to certain topics and the emphasis given to them may differ. To prepare for the History of the United States II exam, it is advisable to study one or more college textbooks, which can be found in most college bookstores. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the “Knowledge and Skills Required” for this test.

Additional detail and differing interpretations can be gained by consulting readers and specialized historical studies. Pay attention to visual materials (pictures, maps, and charts) as you study. The Internet is another resource you could explore.

Additional suggestions for preparing for CLEP exams are given in “Preparing to Take CLEP Examinations.”

## Answer Key

1.	B	29.	D
2.	A	30.	C
3.	B	31.	B
4.	C	32.	A
5.	A	33.	D
6.	E	34.	A
7.	E	35.	E
8.	A	36.	C
9.	A	37.	E
10.	D	38.	D
11.	A	39.	C
12.	B	40.	A
13.	E	41.	C
14.	A	42.	C
15.	E	43.	D
16.	B	44.	A
17.	A	45.	C
18.	B	46.	E
19.	A	47.	B
20.	A	48.	A
21.	D	49.	B
22.	C	50.	A
23.	E	51.	C
24.	C	52.	B
25.	D	53.	C
26.	C	54.	B
27.	E	55.	A
28.	C	56.	B